

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 04584 01 OF 02 052342Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 OES-06 /099 W

-----060119Z 074832 /73

P 052320Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1333

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

ALL USCONS MEXICO BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 04584

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM UR BR GY VE MX

SUBJECT: OPANAL'S LATEST MOVES

1. IN A CALL ON OPANAL SECRETARY GENERAL GROSS ESPIELL WITH VISITING PROFESSOR DR. GEORGE QUESTER OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON LATEST OPANAL DEVELOPMENTS EMERGED:

A) SOVIET POSITION ON PROTOCOL II: GROSS ESPIELL SAID THAT THE RECENT MEXICAN OVERTURE TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION TO ENCOURAGE ITS SIGNING OF PROTOCOL II FAILED. HOWEVER, SOVIET OPPOSITION TO SIGNING OF PROTOCOL II HAS ESSENTIALLY BEEN REDUCED TO THE FAILURE OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO TO DEAL WITH TRANSIT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THEREFORE, ON MARCH 31 GROSS ESPIELL PROPOSED TO THE USSR, VIA SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO, A NEW FORMULA WHEREBY THE SOVIETS COULD SIGN PROTOCOL II. THE PROPOSAL
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 04584 01 OF 02 052342Z

IS THAT THE SOVIETS SIGN PROTOCOL II WITH AN ACCOMPANYING STATEMENT THAT THE USSR INTERPRETS ARTICLE I OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO AS PROHIBITING TRANSIT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS THROUGH THE TERRITORY ENCOMPASSED BY THE TREATY. GROSS SAID THAT HE AND GARCIA ROBLES HAD DEVISED THIS PROPOSAL. IN ADDITION GROSS HAS REQUESTED AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL ON

DISARMAMENT ISSUES DURING GROSS' VISIT TO THE IAEA IN OCTOBER.

B) BRAZIL: GROSS ESPIELL BELIEVES THAT THE BRAZILIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD OPANAL HAS CHANGED IN RESPONSE TO THE UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY BRAZIL HAS RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF THE NUCLEAR DEAL WITH WEST GERMANY. GROSS POINTED TO THE BRAZILIAN "WHITE PAPER" ON NUCLEAR POLICY CIRCULATED LAST MONTH IN WHICH BRAZIL LAUDED ITS SIGNING AND RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY AND IN WHICH BRAZIL STATED IT WILL DO NOTHING TO FRUSTRATE THE EVENTUAL APPLICATION OF THE TREATY TO BRAZIL (PARAGRAPH 26). GROSS CLAIMS THAT THIS LATTER STATEMENT IS A DIRECT RESPONSE TO HIS PLEAS TO BRAZIL OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. GROSS ESPIELL IS MOST CONCERNED THAT WASHINGTON STUDY THE BRAZILIAN WHITE PAPER IN THIS REGARD. HE HAS RECEIVED A LETTER DATED MARCH 18 FROM BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON OPANAL, IN WHICH HE SAYS BRAZIL TAKES A NEW POSITION ON THE RESERVATIONS ENCOMPASSED IN ARTICLE 28 OF THE TREATY: BRAZIL WILL MAKE ITS ADHERENCE TO THE TREATY CONDITIONED ONLY ON SUPER-POWER ADHERENCE TO PROTOCOLS I AND II. EMBASSY HAS COPY OF THE LETTER, WHICH IS IN PORTUGUESE, AND WILL FORWARD COPY IMMEDIATELY TO EINHORN/ACDA.

C) CUBA: GROSS ESPIELL AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF OPANAL HAVE MADE A DECISION TO RENEW PRESSURE ON CUBA TO SIGN THE TREATY. AS RECENTLY AS SIX MONTHS AGO, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER RAUL ROA INDICATED TO GROSS ESPIELL THAT CUBA WOULD NOT SIGN AS LONG AS GUANTANAMO BASE EXISTS. WITH THE DEPARTURE OF ROA, GROSS FEELS IT IS WORTHWHILE
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PAGE 03 MEXICO 04584 01 OF 02 052342Z

TO TRY AGAIN AND IS OBVIOUSLY HOPING A FORWARD US POSITION ON PROTOCOL I AS IT RELATES TO GUANTANAMO WOULD HELP PUSH CUBA IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

D) VENEZUELA: GROSS IS ALSO OPTIMISTIC THAT VENEZUELA CAN BE PRESSURED INTO ALLOWING GUYANA TO BECOME A SIGNATORY TO THE TREATY. HE BELIEVES THAT HE CAN CONVINCE THE GOV TO REVERSE ITS POSITION SINCE GUYANA'S ADHERENCE TO THE TREATY HAS NOTHING BUT ADVANTAGES FOR VENEZUELA. HE IS IN CLOSE COMMUNICATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER NOW AND WILL PRESSURE FOR A POSITIVE MOVE ON THE PART OF VENEZUELA DURING THE UPCOMING MEETING OF OPANAL IN CARACAS.

E) US: GROSS ESPIELL HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH CHARGE THOMPSON ON APRIL 12 DURING WHICH HE WILL MAKE AN OFFER TO THE US TO TAKE THE FLOOR DURING THE OPANAL CARACAS MEETING. GROSS TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY IF WE COULD MAKE A NEW STATEMENT ON PROTOCOL I WHICH WOULD AT

LEAST "MOVE US ONE STEP FURTHER" OR IF WE WOULD AT LEAST
TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE OUR POSITION AS
EXPRESSED AT THE FEBRUARY 14 MEETING. WE WILL REPORT
FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT AFTER GROSS'
APPOINTMENT WITH THE CHARGE. ANY INSTRUCTIONS DEPT. MAY
WISH TO SEND SHOULD REACH US BY APRIL 11.

2. IN INFORMAL COMMENTS TO QUESTER AND EMBOFF, GROSS
ESPIELL INDICATED THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH PRESIDENT
CARTER'S POLICY IN THE AREA OF NON-PROLIFERATION. HE
INDICATED THE US SHOULD NOT BE DISILLUSIONED BY INITIAL

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 04584 02 OF 02 060039Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 04584

E.O. 11652: GDS
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NEGATIVE REACTIONS FROM COUNTRIES LIKE BRAZIL OR THE
SOVIET UNION. HE SAID THAT SUCH REACTIONS WERE NATURAL
CONSIDERING THE "SHOCK" CAUSED BY THE CHANGE IN US POLICY.
HE SAID "THE US WON'T GET 100 PERCENT OF WHAT IT WANTS",
BUT WILL CERTAINLY GET MORE PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF
DISARMAMENT THAN IT WOULD HAVE WITH PAST POLICIES.
THOMPSON.

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